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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

30th May.—Three German planes were shot down over Britain. The Chairman of the City of London Air Raids Precautions Committee announced a new Fire-Watch Scheme.

31st May.—New devices against night-raiders were in operation when a few Nazi bombers visited Liverpool and the Merseyside. Two raiders were shot down.

2nd June.—The Germans raided Manchester, where two hospitals and a nurses' home were bombed. Two German raiders were brought down.

3rd June.—Large fires were started in Berlin when Royal Air Force bombers attacked the German capital at night. Bombers also attacked Dusseldorf, the inland port of Duisburg and other objectives in the Ruhr. The docks at Ostend were raided and also the docks at Saint Nazaire. Daylight bombing raids were effected on shipping in the Kiel Canal, scoring a direct hit on one vessel in the Canal. Off the coast of Norway an enemy supply ship was sunk.

4th June.—Three German bombers were destroyed over Britain. London had its 24th quiet night in succession.

The Royal Air Force made daylight raids on Le Havre, Cherbourg, etc.

5th June.—The Royal Air Force made daylight raids on Zeebrugge and destroyed a number of enemy ships. Boulogne was also attacked.

Five German raiders were shot down when a West Midlands area was attacked.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

30th May.—The Italians evacuated Debrach, 50 miles north of Gondar, to which they began to retreat. The South African Air Force in Abyssinia harried the Italians in the region of Jimma.

Four German bombers were shot down in Tobruk which was raided by large enemy formations.

Rome admitted the loss of the crack Italian liner Conte Rosso, in a convoy south of Syracuse.

31st May.—The Abyssinian Patriots, advancing from Debrach, took three forts east of it as well as Billio. The British and South African Air Forces and Free French air units were active over enemy concentrations.

Four more Axis aircraft were shot down in Tobruk.

The Royal Air Force visited Sfax harbour in Tunis and bombed the Italian merchant-ship Florida.

1st June.—Seven enemy planes were destroyed by the Royal Air Force during patrols over British ships.

Benghazi in Libya, aerodromes in Crete and Sfax in Tunisia were raided.

Air Vice-Marshal A. W. Tedder was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force in the Middle East in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore, who was appointed Inspector-General of the Royal Air Force.

2nd June.—British forces cut the road from Debra Tabor to Gondar.

The British defences in the Island of Cyprus were stated to be ready to meet any invasion.

3rd June.—Another attack was made on military objectives at Bengazhi by bomber aircraft of the Royal Air Force and a number of explosions were caused in the harbour area.

4th June.—The British Imperial and Abyssinian Patriot forces had so far taken 5,772 Italian and 12,010 African troops as prisoners in the Battle of the Lakes in Abyssinia (it was revealed). Debrach, twice re-taken by Italians, was finally captured by the Allies.

The Royal Air Force attacked an enemy convoy in the Mediterranean, blowing up one ship of 8,000 tons and setting on fire another of 5,000 tons.

5th June.—The Royal Air Force raided the enemy aerodrome at Maritza (in the island of Rhodes) and also Benghazi.

Alexandria was raided by the German air force; and also Malta.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

30th May.—"You may completely dismiss all rumours of British readiness to make peace. You cannot make peace with a mad dog" said Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States.

31st May.—The first shipload of food sent by the United States under the Lease and Lend Act reached Britain; it included 1,000 tons of flour, over four million eggs and 12,000 lb. of cheese.

Mr. Harold Ickes, United States Secretary of the Interior, was appointed "Petroleum Co-ordinator for National Defence" by President Roosevelt with instructions to keep oil flowing in an adequate supply for defence and civilian needs.

Police broke up a meeting of the German American Bund in New Jersey. The German Government disowned Dr. Kurt Reith, their former Minister in Austria, who was arrested by the United States authorities with a view to deportation.

1st June.—The President of Mexico pledged help to the United States of America in the event of the latter being involved in war.

Armed watch was enforced on ports, factories and docks along Hudson River following a huge fire in a railway yard near by.

2nd June.—"Hitler will not win," declared Mr. Harry Hopkins, United States Lease and Lend Administrator.

The House of Representatives approved legislation permitting Mr. Roosevelt to appoint an unlimited number of Vice-Admirals to have charge of "special and unusual missions" of the Naval forces.

The War Department requested Congress for legislation, authorizing the President during the national emergency to requisition property of any kind "necessary to national defence"—a power similar to that assumed by President Wilson during the Great War.

President Roosevelt signed a Bill, authorizing the grant of compulsory priorities for orders from foreign Governments under the Lease and Lend Act.

3rd June.—"Every available source that we have hitherto found accurate gives evidence that half the present output of American factories, combined with Great Britain's present production, exceeds the German output," declared Colonel John Jouett, President of the United States Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce.

President Roosevelt conferred with Mr. John Winant, American Ambassador to Britain; Mr. Harry Hopkins was present.

It was reported that United States troops were already in Greenland.

4th June.—Mr. Roosevelt conferred with Admiral King, Commander of the United States Atlantic Fleet, who is chiefly responsible for ensuring the delivery of supplies to Britain.

Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, conferred with British representatives in Washington on the question of preventing supplies reaching the Axis powers directly or indirectly from North and South America.

5th June.—Provision for 40,000 planes was made in the Army Supply Bill recommended by the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee.

GREECE AND ITALY

30th May.—More German airborne reinforcements were reported to have reached Crete.

The Royal Air Force raided the German-occupied island of Scarpanto.

31st May.—The Allied position in Crete was reported to be desperate but the German claim that Major General Freyberg had been killed was proved to be false in a British War Office announcement.

1st June.—A War office communique announced that the British were withdrawing from Crete and that 15,000 troops had already reached Egypt.

2nd June.—The Australian Premier, Mr. Menzies, praised the work of the Australian troops in Crete "in a necessary and heroic enterprise, manfully pursued home".

The King of the Hellenes appointed a smaller Cabinet, M. Tsouderos remaining Prime Minister.

Mussolini, Ciano and General Cavallero met Hitler, Ribbentrop and Marshal Keitel at Brenner on the Italo-Austrian frontier and had a long conversation.

3rd June.—The Greek Legation in Moscow was informed that Russia considered diplomatic relations between the two countries invalid in view of what was described as the loss of Greek sovereignty and the fact that the Soviet Government had ceased to have representatives in Greece.

The extent of German consternation at the internal situation in Greece where disorders have occurred was indicated by an order issued by the Nazis declaring as offences, to be punishable by shooting, any manifestations of pro-British sympathy.

5th June.—Germans established military courts in Crete in order to try *franctireurs*, alleged to have " maltreated " German parachutists.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

30th May.—Rashid Ali, the Iraqi usurper, was reported to have fled to Iran. The British forces occupied Ur.

The Royal Air Force attacked German air bases in Syria.

31st May.—The Iraqi rebels asked for an armistice, which was granted by Britain; the British forces had already been converging on Baghdad from three directions.

1st June.—Fighting ceased in Iraq at 8 a.m.: the lawful Regent H.R.H. Emir Abdul Ilah entered Baghdad following the signing of the armistice. The boy King Feisal was reported to be safe in Baghdad.

The Mosul oil-fields were stated to be intact.

2nd June.—Baghdad was reported to be rapidly returning to normal; all was quiet in Basra.

General Dentz, Vichy's High Commissioner in Syria, proclaimed a state of siege in Eastern Syria; the French Government suspended telegraph and telephone communications with Cairo. The Royal Air Force bombed German air bases at Aleppo and other Syrian centres. The Ankara Radio reported the arrival of the first contingent of German troops in Syria.

3rd June.—Jemil Madfai, well-known and popular pro-British statesman, accepted the Iraqi Regent's invitation to form a new Government.

4th June.—The Turkish Foreign Minister made a statement on foreign affairs, including Syria, at a secret meeting of the People's Party.

British troops occupied Mosul. Law and Order were restored in Baghdad after serious rioting.

British forces were reported to have taken up positions in readiness against any possible move by the Germans now establishing themselves in Syria. The Royal Air Force raided Beirut.

General de Gaulle, the Free French Leader, was stated to have taken up his headquarters at Haifa in Palestine.

It was learned that Rumania would become a totalitarian state without a Parliament.

5th June.—The French air force bombed Amman, the Capital of Transjordan " as a reprisal for the Royal Air Force bombing of Beirut."

SHIPPING

30th May.—The United States Government took over 13 passenger liners as mliitary auxiliaries.

4th June.—The U.S. Maritime Commission announced that American merchantmen would take over all British shipping services from Canada and the U.S. to Australia and New Zealand, thus releasing 12 British vessels for Britain's own war effort.

It was revealed that in the week ending 2nd June, 63,000 tons of enemy shipping were sunk or damaged, of which at least 55,000 tons were sunk in the Mediterranean.

THE FAR EAST

2nd June.—The United States gave an assurance to the Chinese Government that she would relinquish her extra-territorial rights as soon as peace and order were restored in China.

The British Embassy, the French Consulate and the American Methodist Hospital were severely damaged when Japanese aircraft raided Chungking.

Chinese successes were announced in the fierce fighting in Shansi Province and in South China. Chinese " guerillas " were also very active, blowing up a train on the Peking-Hankow Railway and tearing up the track of the Peking-Johol Railway.

4th June.—Mr. Wang Yueh-Sun, Propaganda Agent of the Japanese-sponsored Nanking regime, was shot dead in Shanghai.

Heavy fighting was reported in Central Shensi and North Honan, the Japanese suffering heavy losses.

An agreement for the supply of oil to Thailand was signed by her representatives with the British authorities in Singapore.

5th June.—The Japanese claimed striking victories in Southern Shensi and North Honan.

VICHY

30th May.—Admiral Platon, Vichy's Vice-Secretary for the Colonies, admitted considerable unrest in them.

31st May.—Admiral Darlan told pressmen that he was determined to make others respect France's right to use her ports and communications as she wished.

2nd June.—The French ship *Winnipeg*, (8,379 tons) was intercepted by the Royal Netherlands warship *Van Kinsbergen* in West Indies waters. The *Winnipeg* sailed from Marseilles and had called at Dakar. When intercepted, she had aboard over 200 Germans bound for Martinique.

3rd June.—The Vichy Cabinet met for 2¼ hours when General Weygand was present.

4th June.—The Vichy Cabinet was reported to have decided to defend Syria "single-handed" (under General Weygand's leadership) against any British attack; but Vichy denied foreign reports that French naval bases in Europe and Africa would be jointly occupied by French and Geramn forces.

The U.S. Ambassador, Admiral Leahy, had an interview with Marshal Petain.

5th June.—Mr. Cordell Hull, U.S. Secretary of State, warned Vichy that its policy of collaboration with the Nazis was inimical to the rights of the United States and that a basic policy of the U.S. was to aid Britain against Germany.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

31st May.—The German Naval Commander-in-Chief in Norway, Admiral Boeham, was reported to have committed suicide, following the recent visit of Himmler, Chief of the German Secret Police, to Norway. The Admiral was a friend of Herr Hess.

4th June.—The German-controlled Paris Wireless threatened the death penalty for night assaults on German soldiers which were admitted to have become frequent in Paris.

It was learned that Dr. Matchak, the Croat leader, was interned at Kupenich.

Eighty-two thousand officials had been dismissed by the German authorities in Moravia and Bohemia because of increasing sabotage.

General Sikorski, the Polish Premier, addressing the Polish National Council in London, envisaged offensive action by the growing free Polish forces next year on the continent.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (RUSSIA, SPAIN, EIRE, ETC.)

31st May.—The Moscow Radio reported military manœuvres in Ukraine.

Bombs dropped by foreign aircraft on Dublin caused many deaths and heavy damage to property. The house of Eire's President, Dr. Hyde, and the American Legation building suffered. Fierce anti-aircraft fire greeted the raiders.

1st June.—The bombs dropped on Dublin were found to be of German origin and the Eire Government protested to Germany and demanded compensation as also an assurance that German aircraft would not fly again over Irish territory or territorial waters.

4th June.—The Egyptian Premier reshuffled his Cabinet.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 27th May 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over North-West European coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
May 21, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raid on naval base at Heligoland (quays, gun positions, troops). R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter raid on **Bethune** (power station, oil refinery).	2 day bombers. 6 day fighters.	6 day fighters. ..
May 22, Thursday.	(No reports.)	..	..
May 23, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off Dutch and French coasts (1 merchantman and 1 tanker damaged). R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Cologne**; ports, (including Boulogne and St. Nazaire) and aerodromes in occupied territory.	Nil.	..
May 24, Saturday.	R.A.F. day raids on shipping in North Sea (2,500-ton merchantman sunk, another damaged).	1 day bomber.	..
May 25, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber attacks on two convoys off Danish, German and French coasts (6,000-ton merchantman damaged, 4,000-ton merchantman on fire, others hit).	4 day bombers.	..
May 26, Monday.	(No reports.)		
May 27, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on aerodrome at Lannion (planes, hangars, lorries); shipping off Dutch coast and in Bay of Biscay (two coastal vessels believed sunk). R.A.F. night bomber raids on industrial objectives at **Cologne**; invasion base at Boulogne; aerodrome near Caen.	1 raider.	7 fighters (destroyed on ground).

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 27th May 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attack (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European coastal waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
May 21	Nil.	..
May 22	Nil.	1 day fighter.
May 23	Nil.	..
May 24	Nil.	1 day raider.
May 25	Nil.	3 day fighters.
May 26	Nil.	1 day raider.
May 27	Nil.	1 day bomber.

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TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The situation in Iraq is fast returning to normal. Rashid Ali has fled to Iran with his co-conspirators. An Armistice was signed on Saturday. The Regent, Abdul Ilah, has returned to Baghdad in triumph, and a new Government has been formed with Jemil Madfai, pro-British leader, as Prime Minister. He has been Prime Minister three times already. Mosul is in British hands.

Crete has had to be evacuated mainly owing to the impossibility of the Royal Air Force giving any help to the Empire land forces. The German attempt has been described to be a remarkable feat of organization and administration, its conspicuous feature being completeness of conception and execution. But Germany paid a heavy toll, both in men and machines. Fifteen thousand Empire troops had been evacuated and, it is stated, that 2,800 New Zealand and 3,600 Australian troops have been captured, killed or wounded. The British Navy, as usual, played a gallant part in this rescue work.

The results of the Vichy-Berlin negotiations are being published in spoonfuls and many reports are current as regards the scope of the understanding which, it is said, will eventually result in a treaty. Use of naval bases by Germany including Dakar on the West African coast is being mentioned. General Weygand has seen Marshal Petain and Admiral Darlan. Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, United States, has again warned Vichy. Franco-German collaboration, he has pointed out, was inimical to American interests as well as to those of other nations, and would amount to co-operation for the purpose of aggression and oppression.

Meanwhile the situation in Syria is getting abnormal. General Dentz, Vichy's High Commissioner in Syria, has denied that there is a single German soldier in that country, but it is suspicious that a state of siege has been proclaimed in Syria. There is no doubt that many German planes and airborne troops, according to one account, have flown over to Syria which is the chief centre of interest in international politics.

Hitler and Mussolini have again met at Brenner Pass and the usual communique that there was complete identity of views between the two leaders has been published. It is also stated that discussions centered around the final role of the Axis in the organization of a New Empire!

Whatever that conception may be, British Labour is determined not to have any peace, negotiated or otherwise, which is not built upon the complete annihilation of Nazidom. The Labour Party Annual Conference adopted a memorandum of "no compromise" with Hitler and Mussolini by 2,000,430 votes to 19,000 votes. That memorandum stressed the need for total victory and stated that it would be a folly and betrayal of those for whom the British Labour Party spoke to put any trust in a peace to which Hitler and Mussolini were parties.

Mr. Harry Hopkins, the Special Envoy of President Roosevelt, has now stated that Hitler will not win because he has no sea power, he is losing air superiority, he cannot equal the economic resources which America and Great Britain are bringing to bear against him and it is contrary to American interest—economic, political, and moral—that he should be allowed to consolidate his ill-gotten gains. Mr. Winant, American Ambassador in Great Britain, who is now in Washington, is having a series of important conferences with President Roosevelt and Government officials. These talks, it is presumed, relate to the defence of the United States, the Battle of the Atlantic and England's most urgent requirements. It is expected that valuable results will follow.

Whatever America may do, however, Eire seems determined to remain neutral. On Saturday, the 31st May, many bombs were dropped on Dublin and these bombs have now been identified to be German in origin. The death roll is now 34 and at least 500 people have been rendered homeless. The Eirean Government have lodged an emphatic protest in Berlin, have claimed compensation and reparation for loss of life, injuries and damage to property, and demanded definite assurances that German aircraft will not be allowed to fly over Irish territory and territorial waters.

Some striking figures of air losses by the enemy have been published. One hundred and forty-four German night bombers were brought down during the month of May, a record number. The Allies destroyed 1,696 enemy machines against a loss of 260 by themselves since the beginning of the war on all fronts in the Middle East, including Iraq. Altogether, by day and night, 205 enemy planes have been brought down over Britain during May and 32 over Europe and 23 more were brought down by the Navy, the total number being 260. British losses for May were 67 over Europe and 18 over Britain.

EVACUATION OF CRETE

The British Imperial Forces have evacuated Crete after twelve days of the most heroic defence against odds. A War Office communique stated on June 1: "After twelve days of what has undoubtedly been the fiercest fighting in this war it was decided to withdraw our forces from Crete. Although the losses we inflicted on the enemy's troops and aircraft have been enormous, it became clear that our naval and military forces could not be expected to operate indefinitely in and near Crete without more air support than could be provided from our bases in Africa. Some 15,000 of our troops have been withdrawn to Egypt but it must be admitted that our losses have been severe." It is believed that the number 15,000 given in the communique relates only to British Imperial troops and does not include Greek troops who may have been withdrawn. This conclusion of the Battle for Crete must be somewhat disappointing but the decision to evacuate was undoubtedly right. "We were prepared to pay a certain price to hold Crete but as soon as this price exceeded the value which we placed on holding the island, we decided to withdraw." These words rightly sum up informed military opinion on this subject.

The odds were in favour of the garrison in this extraordinary battle provided the British fleet was able to maintain the sea blockade without its forces being depleted. The losses it sustained in the first week of the struggle were disquieting and it was unable to prevent large numbers of airborne German troops continuing to land in Crete. This is no reflection on Admiral Cunningham's magnificient force; it merely means it faced an impossible task. British long-range bombers and fighters kept up raids on Crete but the close proximity of enemy air bases on the Greek mainland and the Aegean islands gave the Germans overwhelming air strength which even frequent long-range bombing could not shake. The defenders also suffered from two handicaps; it was difficult to reinforce them with men and supplies and constant enemy dive-bombing and land attacks gave them no rest, thereby imposing on them an intolerable strain. By using freshly landed troops to extend their hold on the Malemi aerodrome, the Nazis were able to bring in increasing reinforcements and they went on to capture Canea and dominate Suda Bay.

MADRAS AND THE R.A.F.

THREE FIGHTER SQUADRONS NAMED AFTER MADRAS

OVER one million pounds has been given to the British Air Ministry by four Indian funds, Madras Presidency subscribing **£675,000**, Punjab **£120,000**, United Provinces **£160,000**, and Bombay **£100,000**. Three squadrons—a Hurricane, a Spitfire and one of the Defiants—have been selected to perpetuate the fine contribution made by Madras to the Empire war effort. One is a Hurricane fighter squadron. It had a splendid record in the Great War of 1914-1918. Another is a Spitfire squadron. Both squadrons played a magnificent part in the Battle of Britain. The third is one of the new squadrons of Defiants. This squadron made history at Dunkirk when it shot down 35 enemy aircraft in one day without a single loss to itself.

The British Command, of course, flung into the fray long-range fighters from Egypt, but these machines worked under very severe disadvantages. The German machines operated from bases only 150 miles from the scene while Britain's long-range fighters had to fly some 300 or 400 miles from their Egyptian bases before coming to grips with the enemy. In Britain's long-range fighters, the pilots had to be very careful about the fuel-gauge because, when once their petrol is exhausted, it is their duty to turn to their base. The Bristol Blenheim long-range fighter which has been operating over Crete has rear defensive armament which enables a certain amount of fire to be turned to the rear. So long as the pilot has plenty of petrol in hand, he can engage in head-on encounters with his enemy, knowing that he can bring the full weight of his fire to bear on his objective; but once he has to turn and make for home, he can defend himself and hit back only with a seriously-reduced proportion of fighting power.

But, despite the withdrawl from Crete, the course of events in the Near East has not brought Hitler appreciably nearer his ultimate goal. Hitler has ferociously expended his men, petrol and machines. The Empire troops destroyed or wrecked six hundred of Hitler's best invasion planes. They killed 18,000 of his best shock troops. They fought day and night without rest on air fields, on beaches and in the hills. The decision in Germany that henceforth special prayers for the Nazi armies in the field shall be offered in all churches until the end of the war may be taken as evidence of the growing need to support German morale against the coming news of heavy losses. Moreover, as Mr. Churchill declared a few days ago, despite the successes of German dive-bombers in attacking British ships under ideal conditions in their point of view "there is no question whatever of the British naval position in the Mediterranean having been prejudicially affected." The loss of Crete has created a second channel through which Allied ships must pass, open to enemy air attacks on both sides. In this case, however, there is a difference. The Royal Air Force, based on Egypt, will be able to deal with enemy dive-bombers whereas in the case of the other channel, the narrow Sicilian channel, we have no bases near other than aircraft-carriers. The fact is that, thanks to the magnificent stand made by the British forces and the long time they managed to hold out in Crete, the situation in other centres in the Near East has considerably improved for Britain. While Crete has been held, forces and aeroplanes from East Africa have been made ready for action elsewhere. Tanks have been overhauled and serviced and the situation in Iraq has been cleared up. And after all, the withdrawal of 15,000 troops under heavy enemy pressure was a feat in itself and must be heartening to the Allied High Command in the Middle East, who so urgently need every available man and machine to deal with the rapidly developing situation in Libya and Syria. The loss of Crete is undoubtedly a serious set-back, but the Allies have learnt many lessons which will stand them in good stead.

HITLER'S NEXT MOVE

The defence of the naval bases in Alexandria and the Suez Canal is the next problem. In this defence, the Island of Cyprus will be of the utmost importance and adequate steps ensure our hold of it. The question of air power here again will be a decisive factor. The vandals will not be in so favourable a position to deploy their air forces against Cyprus as against Crete unless, indeed, they previously overrun Turkey and establish themselves in Syria. Hitler is trying to do the latter now and it is urgent that the many French soldiers in Syria, who hate the Nazis and are ready to throw in their lot with General de Gaulle, should receive every encouragement. This encouragement could be given if the Free French Forces now in Palestine and Egypt advanced on Beirut and Damascus, covered by our Air Force which would protect them from attacks by Nazi planes now in Syria. These are days which demand resolute political action and acceptance of risks even if the act is audacious. For the defence of Cyprus, Syria must be in friendly hands. Germany has already secured control of the French aerodromes in Syria and the Ankara Radio is responsible for the report that the first contingent of German troops has arrived in Syria—probably from one of the Dodecanese Islands. The French High Commissioner, General Dentz, has proclaimed a state of siege in Eastern Syria and telegraph and telephone communications between Syria and Cairo were cut by order of the French Government. Turkey naturally feels anxious about the possibility of being first isolated and then threatened by Germany; and the feeling is growing among her people that Britain must take quick and firm action in Syria, even occupying it and thus forestalling the Germans, if necessary. The Royal Air Force, it may be noted, has not at all been idle and has repeatedly bombed Aleppo and other German air bases in Syria.

IRAQ SITUATION CLEARED UP

It is satisfactory to note that the situation in Iraq is once more normal with the collapse of Rashid Ali's Nazi-inspired revolt and the flight of the usurper to Iran, accompanied by the puppet Regent he set up and the Axis Ministers in Baghdad who had encouraged him. An armistice has been signed; the lawful Regent, H.R.H. Emir Abdul Ilah, has returned to Baghdad and been welcomed by all sections of the population; and Jemil Madfai, the popular pro-British leader, has formed a new Cabinet. The boy King Feisal is reported to be safe in the capital, contrary to earlier reports that Rashid Ali had taken him away to Iran. The Mosul oilfields are

also stated to be in tact and and are in British hands. It is of considerable strategical value to the Allied cause to have thus secured an alternative line of supply to India as well as a valuable source of oil supply; and the rallying of the Arab world to the British side and the security afforded to our Allies, the Turks, by thus guarding their back-door are valuable strategical assets.

The failure of the rebellion also clearly demonstrates the fact that the Arabs refuse to be dominated by Nazis. As Mr. Eden pointed out on the 27th May last, the pretensions of Rashid Ali to speak for Iraq have proved to be hollow. This self-constituted dictator, as the Foreign Secretary pointed out, has brought much unnecessary suffering to his fellow countrymen. The Arab world should be thankful that this traitor is out of the way.

LIQUIDATION OF ITALIAN RESISTANCE IN AFRICA

The course of the Abyssinian campaign should have great influence in the defence of Egypt, for it not only secures its backdoor but releases a considerable force of seasoned and gallant troops to move northward. It is possible that General Wavell may now find himself strong enough to assume the offensive in Libya before the enemy is allowed further time to reinforce his troops there. The Italian columns in the Lake Districts are being rapidly mopped up, a considerable number of prisoners being captured every day. The enemy has been driven from Debrach, 50 miles north of Gondar on the road to Adowa, and is retreating towards Gondar. There is every prospect of 17,000 Italians being hemmed in there as the British and Abyssinian Patriot forces hold Chelge on the West, Lake Tana on the south, Debra Tabor on the south-east and now Debrach on the north. It should be remembered that there are still over 35,000 enemy troops in various parts of Abyssinia. Allied pressure is continuous and small parties of enemy surrender almost daily, but obviously it must take some time to round up this number of men when spread over a large area. The Royal Air Force is continually harassing enemy concentrations: it has again and again raided Bengazhi, the principal enemy base in Libya. The enemy has so far failed to capture Tobruk; and Tobruk is a threat to the enemy's flank in any move towards Egypt. Of course, the Germans have recaptured Sollum, but many places in Northern Africa change hands so frequently and Sollum is an example of the fluidity of desert-warfare, whose results should be judged mainly from the numbers of casualties and prisoners and the vehicles and material captured or destroyed on either side. Applying this test, what do we find? Mussolini has lost the Roman Empire in East Africa. He has been punished very severely. Where he had a well-equipped army of 300,000 men, one-third of whom were white Italians, possessed a thousand guns, hundreds of tanks, a transport fleet of giant size and an air force, to-day there is none poorer than Mussolini. What are his losses? 120,000 men have been captured, 125,000 have deserted or are missing, 55,000 have been killed or are stragglers and his equipment and stores have been entirely lost. He has been deprived of 700,000 square miles of territory, representing all Asia Minor or seven times the size of Britain.

TURKEY

One unmistakable fact which emerges from the latest developments in the Eastern Mediterranean is that Turkey has been encircled by Germany. This has been methodically done. Where Turkey expected an attack from the west, it now appears that, if she is unwilling to satisfy Germany's demands, she might be threatened from the south-east; German troops are now stationed along Turkey's European frontier, German and Italian troops occupy the chain of Greek islands from the Dardanelles to Rhodes and Germany has the use of Bulgarian and Rumanian shipping to attack Turkey on her northern flank. If Syria comes increasingly under the influence of Germany—the process has already commenced—then, the circle would be complete. Combined naval and air manœuvres carried out under German control from the Rumanian Black Sea port of Constanza indicate that an attack upon Turkey's northern coast is not impossible in specific circumstances. Not content with this physical encirclement, Germany has started a whispering campaign about an impending Russo-German plan of collaboration on a comprehensive scale. Turkey is therefore being threatened by German power on three sides and has Russia at her back door. As a matter of fact, Turkish circles which are confident of British ability to prevent the German conquest of Iraq and Syria, appear to fear the intervention of "a third party" which is, of course, Soviet Russia. The handing over to Russia of the Persian Gulf as a price may induce, it is said, Soviet Russia to allow German troops a passage *via* Batoum to Iraq and so on. Whatever that may be, Germany does not scruple to circulate these rumours as an instrument of propaganda for bringing pressure to bear upon the Turks.

The thin end of the wedge is already there. Reports have been published of Turkish-German agreement in respect of exchange of goods. It is believed that 16 Axis merchant ships have passed through Bosphorus westwards with suspect cargoes and the Turks have been unable to stop or control these movements. The British Government have drawn the attention of Turkey through diplomatic circles to the passage of arms and munitions from French Syria to the Iraqi rebels by the Aleppo-Mosul railway, a section of which passes through Turkish territory. The Turks have

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INDIA'S DEFENCE OUTPOSTS

AXIS THREATS MUST BE MET RESOLUTELY

The news of the collapse of the revolt in Iraq and the flight of the usurper Rashid Ali from the country will be widely welcomed in India. There is ample proof that Rashid, who rebelled against the properly-constituted Iraqi Government, was helped by money from the Axis powers. If his revolt had been successful, Iraq would have been reduced to the state of Rumania, which is now German in everything but name. Rashid Ali had no qualms in opening the gate for a German invasion of Asia.

And the treachery of the Vichy Government supplemented that of Rashid Ali. It has been well said that while Iraqi Quislings opened the gate, the French Quislings have done their best to smooth the road. The Germans are now in control of the principal air bases in Syria, from which French arms and supplies also went to prop up Rashid Ali. The eastward extension of the war-zone has been of service, however, in bringing home a number of realities to India. Paper-strategy is given a more vivid meaning and throws into relief the system of outer defences whereby India's security is maintained. The enemy himself, in his ambitious attempts to rush the barricades, has made us understand just how those barricades are disposed.

India's position in relation to the British Commonwealth in the Eastern Hemisphere is illustrated in the map printed in this issue. True, India has a mighty natural barrier, the Himalaya Mountains, practically shutting off invasion from the North-east. And seasoned troops keep guard over North-West Frontier and Baluchistan, ready to tackle any enemy that dares to enter by the Khyber Pass, or any other approaches from the West. To the Royal Navy and the Royal Indian Navy is given the task of guarding the long coastline of our Peninsula. But with the development of modern weapons, especially in the air, India's defence can no longer be confined to her own boundaries. Her frontiers really lie in Singapore, in Egypt, in the Middle and Near East, and along the Suez Canal at the gateway of the East from the Mediterranean.

In the public mind the Axis threat to India from the West had so far been confined mainly to the direction of Egypt where there are large forces of Imperial Troops opposing the enemy advance from Libya. Germany's original plan was undoubtedly a simultaneous attack on Britain by herself and by Italian forces, moving from Libya, on Suez. But the Royal Air Force and the Imperial Troops under General Sir Archibald Wavell have beaten off both the attacks. In a succession of brilliant operations, the Italian troops were driven back to Benghazi and the conquest of Italian East Africa was undertaken. The Germans then took a hand in Libya where the position now is that British Imperial and German troops are facing each other on the Libyan-Egyptian border. And the harbour of Tobruk in the rear of the German forces in Libya is stoutly defended by British and Indian troops and is an ever-present threat to the German flank. The statement of Mr. Churchill that Great Britain is determined to defend her interests in the Middle East at all costs, and especially Tobruk, has restored public confidence in the defence of India by our troops in Egypt.

THREAT FROM THE WEST

It must, however, be borne in mind that the defence of India in the East is not to be found in Egypt alone. In present-day warfare the aeroplane and fast-moving armoured fighting vehicles have largely overcome the barriers of distances, the seas, deserts and other geographical features which impeded the advance of armies up to the days of the Great War. Egypt is well defended but there are other routes to India leading from the Balkans in Europe. With Germany on the shores of the Aegean Sea, and with Russia remaining neutral, these are generally —

(*a*) The Balkans—Turkey—Iraq—Iran—Afghanistan or Baluchistan.

(*b*) The Balkans—Syria—Iraq—Iran—Afghanistan or Baluchistan.

Of these the first (*a*) is improbable, although by no means out of the question. Turkey, is now isolated from British support, except from the south. Any advance through Turkey would, however, only be possible following a direct attack on the country, which could be strongly resisted. The second route (*b*) presents the more immediate danger. The Germans, by putting pressure on Vichy, are clearly attempting to use Syria as a stepping-stone in the drive to the East. The British Navy dominates the Mediterranean; but, because of the German occupation of the Greek Islands in the Aegean, the sea passage to Syria should not present insuperable difficulties to the Nazis. It may result in heavy losses to them, but a proportion of ships would be certain to get through. There is also the possibility of airborne transport *via* the Dodecanese Islands. And if Syria could be occupied by the Axis powers in strength—Vichy has shown that it has neither the power nor the desire to resist them; that it is, indeed, ready to co-operate with them—a land approach to the East would be available to Germany and Italy, which would be a threat not only to the oil supplies in Iran and Iraq but also to the security of India herself.

IMPORTANCE OF IRAQ

That this is fully realized by Hitler has been shown by the Axis intrigues in Iraq which started Rashid Ali's rebellion. The British, Indian and other Empire troops now there, guarding vital communications, have as great a responsibility for the defence of India as those stationed in Egypt. For, it is in Iraq that any German advance by this route must be brought to a standstill. With the capture of Basra, the Axis would have access to the Persian Gulf. Without naval supremacy, it is true, this might not be a definite threat to India by sea. But from Basra the land route to the East lies open through Iran and Afghanistan. No longer are the deserts and mountains of these two countries an effective barrier to a land advance.

The Anglo-Iraqi Treaty, so wantonly violated by Rashid Ali but nevertheless binding on both countries, provided for agreed measures for the protection of Iraq herself, of British interests in the Middle East, and of India in case of aggression. Any approach of danger can be stemmed by resolute action within Iraq. It can be confidently expected that the Imperial Troops will form an impregnable barrier to a German advance and that the lawful Regent of Iraq, H.R.H. Emir Abdul Ilah, will not only re-establish constitutional government in Iraq but adhere firmly to a treaty that has been such a great stabilising force all these years in the Middle and Near East. So far, at any rate, the peril that threatened the Middle East citadel has been resolutely met by our brave troops and their commanders and will not easily be increased. In Crete and Tobruk, the gallant Allied defenders have given as good as they got though they have had to evacuate Crete in view of the numerical superiority of the German air force; and Germany has been sorely taxed. And in Abyssinia, the fall of Amba Alagi and the surrender of the Duke of Aosta with thousands of troops marks the climax of an astonishing feat of arms in which soldiers of many countries in the British Commonwealth have shared the danger and the glory. Defending the approaches to Suez, General Wavell has shown that his reputation is well earned for striking at the right place and the right moment.

OUR EASTERN BASTION

In the meantime strong reinforcements have reached Malaya from India and other parts of the Empire. Our eastern bastion of Singapore will undoubtedly prove its mettle if and when it comes to be tested by any foe.

All honour to China who is so bravely resisting the aggressor and immobilizing a considerable body of his troops. A Chinese Military Mission has just toured India, Burma and Malaya and has expressed its satisfaction at the state of the defences in these countries. Any ambitious aggressor may be deterred by thoughts of the hot reception awaiting him at Singapore but Indo-China is weak and is a ready prey; it may not be difficult to pierce through to Burma by land. And with Hitler preparing to stake all his past successes and future hopes upon a supreme hazard in the Suez area, and to extort or buy assistance from Russia, Turkey, Iran or indeed, wherever he can, the danger to India of simultaneous assaults on her eastern and western ramparts is not to be denied. It is time for us to sink all our differences, and make our defences secure—by land, sea and air—so that the united efforts of the British Commonwealth of Nations and their Allies, already proved in war, will ensure that the Axis assault is held until the resources that will finally turn the scale are fully mobilised—in America and the Empire.

LOSS OF THE 'HOOD'

The British battlecruiser *Hood*, which blew up off Greenland in an engagement with enemy forces including the battleship *Bismarck*, cost about six million pounds to build.

London has just raised no less than £108,000,000 in a single week in voluntary subscriptions for war weapons—enough to build eighteen *Hoods*.

But Britain will not build eighteen *Hoods*, for the type of which she was the largest representative is no longer being built for the Royal Navy.

The battlecruiser type was developed in the years before the Great War. The object was to develop a vessel with the heavy armament of a battleship but the speed of a cruiser, which could then overtake and deal with commerce-destroying cruisers on the high seas. To achieve the necessary speed armour had to be sacrificed, with the result that battlecruisers may be described as fast-moving heavy gun-platforms which could give many blows but not receive them. The reality of the danger against which battlecruisers were built was proved in the Battle of Coronel in November 1914. The battlecruisers justified their existence in the Battle of the Falkland Isles in December 1914, when two of them disposed of Von Spee's heavy cruisers.

Their weakness in action against battleships was shown at the Battle of Jutland in 1916, when three battlecruisers were lost in quick succession. One of them, the *Queen Mary*, blew up in much the same way as the *Hood* has done. The disabling of the *Graf Spee* in December 1939 by three cruisers was another illustration of a battlecruiser's defensive weakness, for this pocket-battleship was really, on account of her high speed and lack of armour protection, a pocket-battlecruiser.

Modern improvements in machinery have made it possible to build battleships, which are as speedy as battlecruisers and yet are heavily armoured. Thus the *Hood's* speed was 31 knots while that of the *King George V* is over 30 knots.

The *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, sometimes referred to as battlecruisers, are really fast battleships though smaller than the *King George V*. Thus improved machinery, which has saved weight which can now be put into armour, has practically eliminated the thirty-year-old distinction between battleships and battlecruisers.

TALKING POINTS—*(Continued from Page* 9)

not apparently prevented this passage because they fear that such an intervention would not only prevent the despatch of arms and munitions to Turkey by the Basra-Mosul route, but that it would also complicate the situation so far as Turkish relations with Germany are concerned. If Turkey has a very clear understanding that it would be against her interests if Axis control in Syria and Iraq is established, then her hesitation can only be attributed to the fact that she is playing for time in which to secure her equipment from her friends of which she is badly in need. That is why perhaps she has always defined her defence policy much more narrowly than she would have done in other circumstances.

The most vulnerable point is, of course, Syria. Turkish circles are anxious that Great Britain should take the offensive by launching a vigorous land attack before Axis forces, which are already arriving in Syria, becomes stronger. Mere periodic bombing won't do, according to Turkish opinion and it is pointed out that the Imperial forces at present in Palestine are sufficient to capture Syria. The situation in Iraq has eased and the opportunity, it is pointed out by certain critics, should be availed of to see that Syria does not pass into the hands of the Axis, not only in order to save Turkey but also to strengthen the defences of Cyprus and the Suez Canal. There is a movement in Turkey that she should ask the French Government to make a full and frank statement in regard to her intentions about Syria. Turkey wants a very definite assurance that Syria will remain under French control. Otherwise, not only would the Turkish forces on the Syrian frontier be strengthened, but if British forces in Palestine are not utilized to prevent Syria being handed over to Germany, Turkey should at once invade Syria and set up an independent Republic allied to Turkey. There is, of course, a good deal of wishful thinking in all these speculations. Turkey is being surrounded by Germany; she does not of course like it and would, if her integrity is threatened, repel the aggressor with all the force that she could command. Meantime, she desires that somehow or other Nazis should not attack through Syria. Syria cannot be easily reached by land or by the 380-mile sea-route from the Dodecanese, but the example of Crete should be a warning—airborne troops might reach friendly Syria. If anything like that happens, there are British forces in Palestine which might be expected to act expeditiously and Turkey has repeatedly declared that she is not likely to see Syria taken over by the Nazis.

NEWS!

As usual, the B.B.C. was first with the news of the loss of the *Hood*. Berlin spoke of "heavy forces" engaging the *Bismarck*, but the British Admiralty's communiqué about the *Hood* made them launch out on an excited broadcast claiming previous successes against the other British battlecruisers *Repulse* and *Renown*.

Here are some previous Axis "victories" against British battlecruisers, including the *Hood* herself.

MUSSOLINI AND THE 'HOOD'

On July 12, 1940, the Italian radio claimed that the *Hood* had been "put out of action for a long time by the Italian air force".

On July 14 the *Hood* was reported from the same source to have reached Gibraltar.

On July 15 the *Hood* was "so badly damaged by three bombs that she could not be repaired in Gibraltar", and would have to go to England.

And on July 18 the Italians excelled themselves by declaring in their weekly broadcast in Bengali that "the *Hood* was destroyed near the Balearic Isles", although on the following day they said that the "badly damaged" *Ark Royal* and the *Hood* were lying in Gibraltar.

It seems that someone else was lying in Rome.

PRIEM AND THE 'REPULSE.'

The German U-boat ace Lieut. Priem, whose loss was admitted by Berlin three weeks late on May 23, was reported by the Nazis on October 16, 1939, to have "damaged and disabled" the *Repulse* in Scapa Flow.

On December 6, 1939, the *Repulse* was listed by the German radio as sunk, together with other "successes" by submarine warfare which "exceed all expectations".

On February 9, 1940, there was yet another German radio report, quoting "American sources of information". This time it was not only the *Repulse*, but the *Hood*, the *Nelson* and the *Warspite* as well. All were said to have suffered "heavy damage" and it was added that they were only saved by being fitted with "mine-catchers". The precise danger which the *Repulse* had avoided after being first "disabled" and subsequently "sunk" was not explained.

German anxiety to discover the whereabouts of these warships was probably the reason for this report. A few days later the British Admiralty announced the arrival of the *Repulse* in port.

The Nazis then dropped the story of the sinking of the *Repulse*, and claimed that she had put in for repairs on account of her "disabling" at Scapa Flow—just 120 days earlier.

Incidentally, they described the *Repulse* as "Britain's fastest battleship," a distinction which they have now transferred to the *Hood*.

GOEBBELS AND THE 'RENOWN.'

And now Dr. Goebbels repeats his legend of May 18 regarding the *Renown*, which he said "was damaged by artillery fire by German battleships in the course of the Norwegian campaign last year. She had to stay in dock for several months."

Actually it was the German battleship *Scharnhorst* which after the engagement of April 9, 1940, had to stay in dock, where she was visited by the Royal Air Force. The *Renown* had chased the *Scharnhorst* in fog and snow, silencing her forward gun turret before the German ship escaped under cover of a smoke-screen.

"During this period," said Mr. Churchill in his report, "a shell had passed through our vessel about the water-line without bursting. . . A second shell went through the foremast, carrying away the aerial. There were no casualties aboard the *Renown*."

Since then the Italians have heard of the *Renown*, which took part in the celebrated bombardment of Genoa on February 10, along with the *Ark Royal* which the Nazis have "sunk" so often.

But Dr. Goebbels has not finished. The *Renown*, he said on May 18, had been "towed into Gibraltar in a damaged condition," following "the concentrated and successful attack" by Italian torpedo-carrying aircraft."

In this attack, as it happens, not a single British ship was hit, while 16 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 6 damaged for the loss of two British planes.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Hitler the King-Maker

Few recent spectacles have been more Gilbertian than that of Adolf Hitler, on whose orders small States have been overrun and their legitimate rulers (Sovereigns and Presidents alike) savagely and personally attacked, setting up in business as a king-maker. On May 19, Berlin's radio broadcast elaborate accounts of the previous day's ceremony at the Quirinal Palace in Rome, whereby the Duke of Spoleto became "King of Croatia"—a puppet-show in the best Italian manner, but this time under discreet German supervision.

A puppet-State ruled by a puppet-Premier (who is also a murderer) applied to the puppet-King of yet another puppet-State, and was graciously provided with—yet another puppet-King.

Croatian "King's" high mission

King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, said the German wireless, declared that the good wishes of himself and his people accompanied the new King of Croatia in the carrying out of his high mission.

Part of the puppet ruler's "high mission," doubtless, will be to afford royal sanction to the continued ruthless spoliation of his new subjects by the Axis partners. According to the New York *Times* (May 19) food, cattle, timber and all kinds of raw materials are being shipped off daily from Croatia to Germany and Italy, while 40 Croat peasant Members of Parliament have already been arrested for daring to protest.

"Protector of Croatia"

"A frontier agreement between Italy and Croatia, and an additional agreement in which Italy guarantees the existence of the Kingdom of Croatia, have been signed at the Palazzo Venezia in Rome," added the Berlin radio. Croatia can assess the value of Mussolini's signature by glancing back at the fate of Austria, which from the beginning of 1934 enjoyed a similar Italian "guarantee." In March 1938, after Hitler had invaded and annexed Austria, he telegraphed to Mussolini that he would "never forget" the Duce's passive co-operation in the German absorption of the independent State of Austria.

Mussolini, who betrayed Austria, would not hesitate to betray Croatia in turn, should his Nazi overlord ever find it expedient to absorb this new "Sovereign independent State."

R.A.F. daylight raid on Bethune

More recently, Berlin said (*a*) that by daylight on May 21, British planes "tried to enter German-occupied territory on the Channel coast," (*b*) that seven British planes were destroyed, (*c*) that the British bombers were "dispersed by A-A fire" and the British fighters "scattered in all directions" by Nazi fighters, and (*d*) that no German planes were lost.

The facts were :—(*a*) British planes succeeded in entering enemy-occupied territory as far as their objective, Bethune, 50 miles inland; (*b*) seven British planes were lost, as stated, (*c*) the attackers were not dispersed, but owing to the tenacity of the British fighters in maintaining formation, the bombers were able to get through and score direct hits on their targets, a power station and a large oil refinery; and (*d*) six German fighters were shot down.

—and on Heligoland

Berlin also lied about the Royal Air Force's other daylight raid on May 21, that on the naval base at Heligoland. The Nazis said (*a*) that most of the British bombs fell in the water, (*b*) that no military objectives were hit, but that a school was damaged and several civilians injured, and (*c*) that two British bombers were destroyed. In actual fact, Heligoland (a highly militarised island occupied exclusively by naval and military personnel) was attacked from a very low level by British bombers, which scored direct hits on docks and gun-emplacements. Only one British bomber was lost.

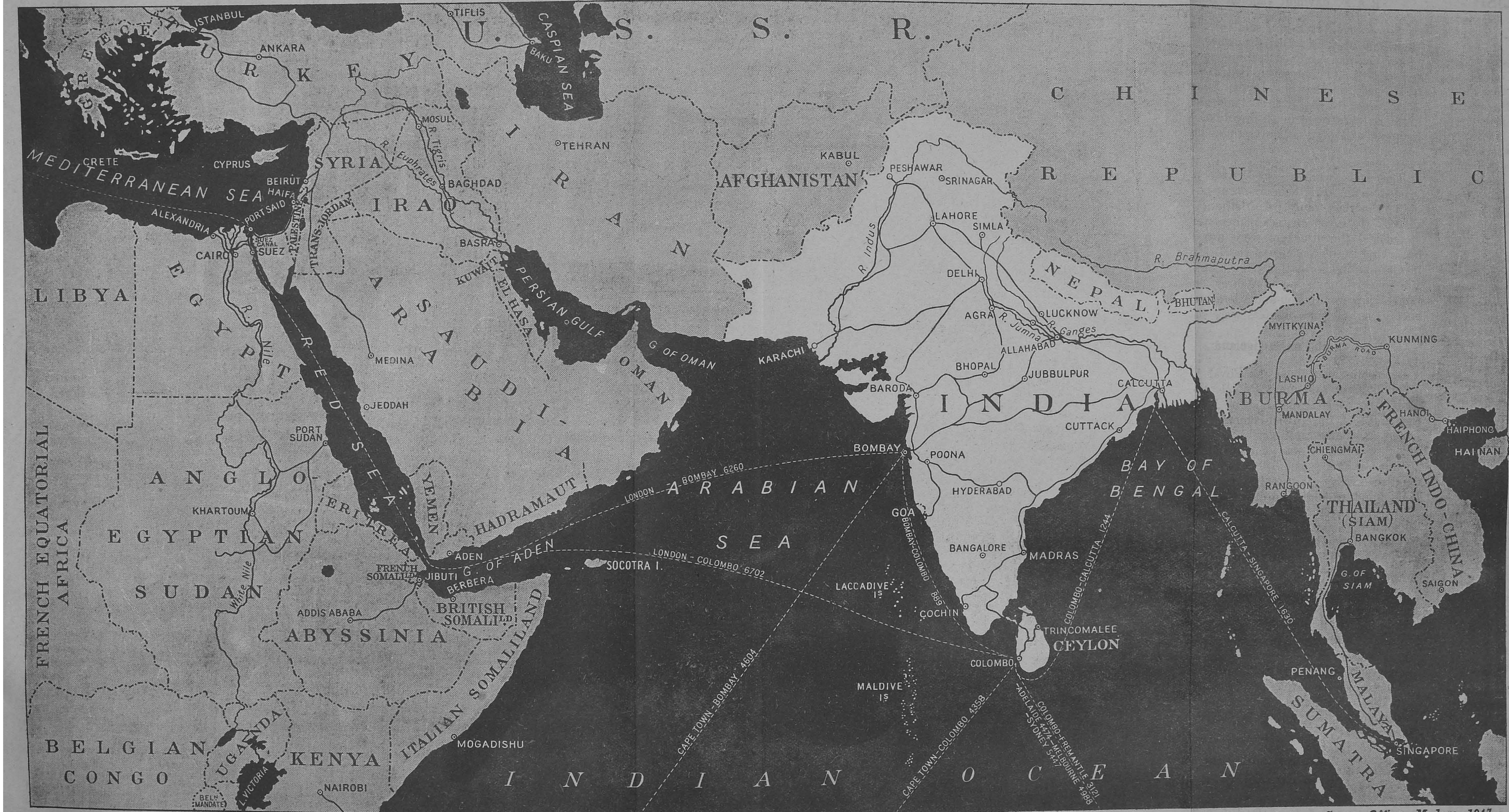
"In daring daylight attacks on May 21," concluded the Nazi wireless, "German bombers penetrated into England, and attacked military objectives with good success." The very brevity of this communiqué was suspicious, since Berlin usually indulges in highly-coloured descriptions of the Luftwaffe's activities. In actual fact, no bombs fell anywhere in Britain, either by day or night, on May 21.

From Iceland to Iraq

"Acting under English pressure," said Berlin on May 21, "the Government of Iceland has seceded from Danish sovereignty."

Iceland's decision to cut its last remaining legal tie with Denmark has been made under no sort of pressure, English or otherwise. Since 1918 Iceland has been an independent State, bound to Denmark only by a personal union through the King, and this union was legally liable to dissolution any time after 1940.

INDIA'S STRATEGIC POSITION



Reg. No. 57/1 Copies 1800

Heliozinco., Survey Office, Madras. 1941.

On the same day, Berlin accused the Royal Air Force of bombing "the open town of Mosul" and machine-gunning the civilian population. An Iraqi military aerodrome now in German hands was the Mosul objective of the Royal Air Force, which has no desire to infringe the German and Italian monopoly of machine-gunning civilians.

Axis "Air" Attacks on Malta

Declaring that since last June (when Italy entered the war) Malta has had no less than 600 air-raid alarms, Berlin asserted on May 22 that, owing to the success of recent German attacks, the harbour of La Valetta has practically lost its value as a naval base. "For several months past," goes on Berlin, "no enemy battleship or heavy cruiser has dared to anchor there. . . A base which is not safe against all possible attacks must be considered useless."

In some respects, Berlin's remarks are an understatement, for Malta to date has had more than 300 full air raids and more than 650 air raid "alerts". Malta ceased to be a base for Britain's larger ships long before the war began, but capital ships have moved freely in and out of its waters even in recent months, and despite enemy air attacks, the 23,000-ton aircraft carrier *Illustrious* underwent repairs there last January before moving on to Alexandria.

Since the enemy now proclaims Malta to be "useless", why does he continue his attacks, which have already cost him 132 German or Italian warplanes destroyed for certain, another 44 probably destroyed, and a further 50 damaged?

Vichy Action Against U. S. Ships

On May 22 the German wireless reported that the Vichy authorities, in retaliation for the confiscation of French ships in United States ports, had prevented two American ships from leaving Marseilles. Since, under ordinary circumstances, United States vessels are no longer to be found in combat zones (including France's coastal waters), it is obvious that any American ships at Marseilles must have gone there by special arrangement to carry foodstuffs destined for the relief of the alleged distress in France. If this Berlin report be true, therefore, Vichy's action against the ships is a characteristically Nazi-esque piece of treachery and ingratitude.

Incidentally, Vichy's ships in United States ports have not been "confiscated", as the German wireless alleges, but merely placed under anti-sabotage guard.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Rashid Ali Ostracised

Regardless of mounting evidence to the contrary, the Nazis in their Hindustani and Arabic broadcasts of May 19 try to make out that Rashid Ali, the misleader of the Iraqis, enjoys the respect and sympathy of every Muslim in the world. That Rashid Ali has been condemned by the adjacent Muslim countries and the spokesman of Indian Muslims is obvious. King Ibn Saud refused to give asylum to Rashid, and recently told the latter's Finance Minister that if he had agreed with Rashid Ali's policy he would have supported him already, adding that the only course open to the Arab nations was to support Britain. The Iraqi community in Bahrein has sent a telegram to the Regent of Iraq, expressing loyalty and calling on him to release Iraq from Rashid Ali and his rebels. In Egypt and Turkey his policy has been characterised as "despicable" and "treacherous".

In India, the Nizam of Hyderabad has issued a strong appeal to Muslims in India to join with him in expressing their unqualified disapproval of the action of Rashid Ali and his clique, who have offended against one of the most solemn precepts of Islam which is to honour the pledged word. Other Muslims in India, like Sir Shafaat Ahmad Khan, Sir Mohammed Usman and the Nawab of Chhatari have been equally downright in their condemnation of the Rashid Ali junta, who by their treacherous action have brought war to the Arab countries.

Nazi Hunt for Caliph

Anxious as ever to bolster the treacherous Rashid Ali, the Nazis in all their Asiatic broadcasts of May 21 described the Sultan of Morocco as "Caliph", and represented him as exhorting all the Muslims to fight against the British. The Sultan of Morocco claims descent from Hazrat Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet, but would not be recognized as Caliph anywhere in Islam, least of all by the Arabs of Morocco who may be presumed to know who can be a Caliph according to Muslim law and tradition. France's surrender has placed the Sultan in the power of the Nazis, whose attempt to pass him off as Caliph is as ludicrous as their talk of "Swiss Muslims" praying for Rashid Ali.

Russia on Britain's Oil Resources

According to the Hindustani and Arabic broadcasts from Berlin on May 20, the British fear that they may no longer be able to get oil from Iraq. This is represented as a great danger to the British war-effort. The Russian paper, *Red Star,* writing on this subject, remarks, "Under the control of Britain and

the U.S.A., there would still remain the most important oil regions of Iran, Bahrein and Saudi Arabia, with an annual production of 12½ million tons. Thus, though the loss of Iraq oil would be a heavy loss for Britain, it could not have a decisive significance ".

It is to be noted that, according to the League of Nations' Statistical Year Book, in 1939 Iraq produced 4 million odd tons, Iran over 10 millions, Netherland East Indies nearly 8 millions, Bahrein, British North Borneo and Burma one million each and Egypt and India together about one million. Thus the Iraq production represents about 15 per cent of the total oil production in the Far and Middle East.

R. A. F.'s Onslaught

Dr. Goebbels' Hindustani broadcast of May 21 tripped up badly when it quoted the testimony of a " special reporter " to the effect that British propaganda about the havoc that the R.A.F. had wrought on Germany's war machine was absolutely false.

It was particularly unfortunate for Dr. Goebbels that his " special reporter " should have been contradicted immediately afterwards by no less a person than General Milch, Inspector-General of the German Air Force. Addressing a Berlin A.R.P. rally on May 20, the General remarked : " We cannot just look on when great damage is done by fire to our factories important for the war effort........... We are all exposed ".

Nazi Piracy

On May 21, in their Hindustani broadcast the Germans broadcast another lie stating that the *Zamzam*, the ship which they recently sank in the South Atlantic, was British. Actually this vessel was Egyptian, sailing under her own flag and carrying many American members of the British-American Ambulance Corps.

As the New York *Times* points out, " the *Zamzam* followed a course remote from the European war zones, but there is no sea where the Nazi pirates do not sail and no flag which they respect ".

British Secret Service Again !

The Nazis return to their pet theme when, referring to the missing ex-chief of the Egyptian General Staff, Aziz-el-Misri Pasha, and his companions, their Hindustani broadcast of May 22 suggested that the British Secret Service had got rid of them. Actually, by announcing a reward of £1,000 for the arrest of Misri Pasha, the Egyptian Government has shown that the activities of these men were prejudicial to the safety of the country.

Indicative of the ridiculous length to which the Nazi propaganda can go is the fact that the Nazis did not even hesitate to accuse the British of having murdered their own American Ambassador, the late Lord Lothian, and General Metaxas, the ex-Premier of Greece, who was the soul of Greek resistance in the early stages of the Axis attack.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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